

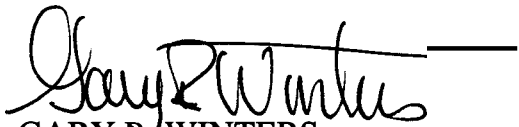
Memorandum

*Flex yourpower!
Be energy efficient!*

To: WILL KEMPTON
Director

Date: January 6, 2005

File: Cultural

From: 
GARY R. WINTERS
Chief
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: Interim Report on the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement

Attached please find a copy of the [interim report on the Department's statewide consistency review of the Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act \(PA\)](#). Since going into effect on January 1, 2004 the PA has improved project delivery by substantially streamlining the Department's procedures under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In return, the Department's cultural resources staff has an increased responsibility under the PA for ensuring that effects to cultural resources are taken into account and that there is no loss in quality of work or consideration for resources.

The PA has already achieved considerable project time savings for Caltrans, and it has substantially reduced routine workload for both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Under the PA, project review turnaround time has been significantly shortened, as many projects either no longer require review by these agencies or they go directly to SHPO with concurrent FHWA review. SHPO's own review time was reduced from months in some cases prior to the PA to an average turnaround time of only 18 days in a post-PA sampling. Such project delivery time savings demonstrate the PA's potential as a highly effective environmental compliance streamlining tool.

As part of the PA's quality assurance program, the Cultural and Community Studies Office (CCSO) conducted consistency reviews of all documents prepared pursuant to the PA, including Local Assistance documents, during the six months following its implementation. In addition, CCSO staff visited each of the 12 Districts, conducted field

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visits, and reviewed internal project files. The attached report summarizes the results of these combined quality assurance measures.

Overall, we find that the PA is working well and that the Department's cultural resources staff are using the PA responsibly and taking appropriate advantage of its streamlining opportunities. We hope that you will agree that implementation of the PA is proceeding satisfactorily. If you have any questions or comments regarding this interim report, please contact Jill Hupp at (916) 227-4679.

Attachment

C DISTRICT DIRECTORS
 DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
 Environmental
 DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL BRANCH CHIEFS
 HERITAGE RESOURCES COORDINATORS